

Appl. No. 10/600,091
Supplemental Amendment dated May 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed a final Office Action dated March 2, 2006. By way of response, Applicants have amended claim 30. Claims 30-36 are pending. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Amendment

Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite a method for cleaning laundry comprising contacting the laundry with an intermediate concentration cleaning composition "for about 1 minute to about 20 minutes." This amendment finds support in the specification at least at page 5, line 13.

Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite a method for cleaning laundry including contacting the laundry with "at least about 15 wt-% of active ingredient." This amendment finds support in the specification at least at page 4, lines 4-6, and page 7, lines 20-22.

Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite "diluting the intermediate concentration cleaning composition about 5-fold to about 200-fold to form dilute cleaning composition." This amendment finds support in the specification at least at page 4, lines 27-29.

Applicants believe claim 30 is in condition for allowance. Notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Marple (U.S. Patent No. 3,197,980). The Examiner rejected claims 35-36 as obvious over Marple as applied to claims 30-34 above, and further in view of Spendel (US Patent No. 4,489,455). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 30 as amended and its dependents are not obvious in view of either of these references. Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite a method for cleaning laundry comprising contacting the laundry with an intermediate concentration cleaning composition "for about 1 minute to about 20 minutes," wherein the intermediate concentration cleaning composition comprises "at least about 15 wt-% of active ingredient." Applicants have also

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amended claim 30 to recite "diluting the intermediate concentration cleaning composition about 5-fold to about 200-fold to form dilute cleaning composition."

The Marple reference only suggests the use of 0.40 to 0.50 percent of a concentrated detergent solution used for "superwashing." Marple also suggests use of a diluted composition that is 0.20 to 0.25 percent of a detergent composition. The use of these compositions in Marple fails to suggest use of an intermediate cleaning composition comprising at least about 15 wt-% of active ingredient and diluting this composition by about 5-fold to about 200-fold. The presently claimed invention utilizes a higher percentage of active ingredients of a concentrated cleaning composition than Marple teaches or suggests, and also greater dilution of this composition.

Spendel fails to remedy the shortcomings of Marple. For these reasons, the presently claimed invention is not obvious in view of the cited references. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 30, 33-36 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as obvious over claims 17, 24, and 29 of U.S. Patent No. 6,897,188. The Examiner rejected claims 31-32 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as obvious over claims 17 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,897,188 in view of Farrington et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,219,370). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

These rejections have not been applied to the claims as currently amended. Should the Examiner maintain these rejections, Applications will file a terminal disclaimer if appropriate.

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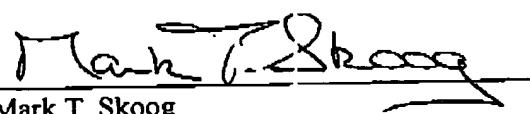
Summary

In summary, Applicants submit that each of claims 30-36 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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